

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS DON KNABE AND
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

AGN. NO.
April 8, 2014

Motion Supporting Legislation on War on Child Sex Trafficking

Child sex trafficking is growing to epidemic proportions across California. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has taken a strong leadership role to raise awareness in our region and increase the services we provide to the victims of this heinous crime.

While we are making progress in serving the victim, we cannot ignore the perpetrators; the ones responsible for the so-called "demand" side of this issue. Currently, girls as young as 10 years old are arrested for being raped by the degenerates who buy and sell them for sex. Those involved in this crime receive little or no consequences for their acts. They are often affiliated with street gangs, and they know that repeatedly selling a girl for sex is far more lucrative with fewer consequences than selling guns or drugs. And the children they exploit pay the ultimate price with their innocence.

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RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

ANTONOVICH _____

KNABE _____

The low-lives who exploit these girls must face severe penalties for what amounts to repeated rape of a child. And that is why state legislation that focuses on prosecuting those who continue to profit from this despicable practice is so important. The County of Los Angeles has sponsored a bipartisan package of state legislation, to increase the penalties for those who would seek to sell or purchase minors for sex. It is time to declare war on those who would sell children for sex.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE, that the Board of Supervisors support the “War on Child Sex Trafficking” Legislative Package, which includes:

1. SB 473 (Block), which would add human trafficking to the list of felony offenses that may be used to establish a pattern of criminal gang activity and make an individual eligible for enhanced criminal sentences and penalties.
2. SB 955 (Mitchell), which would add human trafficking to the list of offenses for which wiretaps may be ordered.
3. SB 982 (Huff), which would make it a felony for those who would procure the sexual services of a minor under 18 years of age, punishable in a county jail for up to three years.
4. SB 1388 (Lieu, Hill and Mitchell), which would set fines of up to \$10,000 for anyone convicted of soliciting a minor, with the funds collected to be directed to a victim services fund. It would additionally make a person who seeks to purchase or who purchases a commercial sex act guilty of a misdemeanor punishable in a county jail for a maximum of six months, and fined up to \$50,000.

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WE, FURTHER MOVE, that the Board direct the Chief Executive Officer and the Sacramento Advocates pursue sponsorship and or support of SB 939 (Block), which allows for the consolidation of multiple human trafficking, pimping and pandering charges from multiple jurisdictions into a single trial if all district attorneys in counties with jurisdiction agree and add SB 939 to the “War on Child Sex Trafficking” Legislative Package.

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